

21. *Formula for Gouty, Rheumatic, and Neuralgic Affections.*—In the *Revue de Thérapeutique Médico-Chirurgicale* for Oct. 1, 1853, we are told that Dr. GAFFARD, of Aurillac, has endeavoured to ascertain the composition of a secret remedy named pills of Lartigue, which have proved very successful in the treatment of rheumatism, gout, and neuralgia. Dr. Gaffard has arrived at the following formula, which he has communicated, in order that it may be tested, to the Society of Medicine of Toulouse.

R. Extract of sabadilla, prepared with boiling alcohol, gr. xvss; Barbadoes aloes, and pure Aleppo scammony, of each gr. lxxviii.—Mix. To be divided into ninety-six pills.

Two of these pills are given every six hours, until the bowels have been purged from four to ten times in twenty-four hours.

To obtain a complete and lasting effect, the use of the pills must be continued for some time. But as their purgative effect increases in direct ratio to the repetition of the dose, and as it is important to regulate this effect and render it uniform, the intervals between the doses should increase in an arithmetical ratio of three hours. Thus, after having obtained the wished for effect, whatever number of pills may have been taken, the dose is delayed for three hours: that is to say, if the interval has been six hours, it becomes nine; if nine, it becomes twelve; and so on, until twenty pills have been taken which is generally sufficient.

After each dose of the pills, a cup of tea should be drank; and this should also form the ordinary beverage of the patient while the purgative effect continues. There must also be an interval of at least an hour between the dose of pills and the hour of rest.—*Assoc. Med. Journ.* Feb. 10, 1854.

22. *Cotyledon Umbilicus in Epilepsy.*—W. H. RANKING, M. D., of Norwich, in a letter to the *Med. Times and Gaz.* (April 1, 1854), states that, as far as his own experience goes, he should pronounce the cotyledon utterly worthless as an anti-epileptic remedy. "I have given," he says, "Hooper's preparation, carefully and perseveringly, in more than thirty cases, public and private, in patients of all ages, and in not a single instance could I trace the smallest benefit to its operation. Many cases certainly were of an unmanageable character, and derived no benefit from any other medicine; but I have notes of three or four in which a most marked improvement has followed the use of the oxide of zinc in increasing doses, after several weeks had been, as I consider, wasted in the employment of cotyledon."

23. *Oxide of Zinc and Hyoscyamus for arresting Colliquative Sweatings in Phthisis.*—Dr. THEOPHILUS THOMPSON recommends (*Lectures on Phthisis*) oxide of zinc and extract of hyoscyamus, of each four grains, made into two pills, to be taken at bedtime, for arresting the colliquative sweating in phthisis.

24. *On the Influence of Belladonna in Counteracting the Poisonous Effects of Opium.*—Dr. Graves had first suggested that in continued fever, with protracted pupils and coma, if an agent administered internally would occasion dilatation of the pupils, it might also relieve the other symptoms of cerebral derangement. Dr. THOS. ANDERSON, acting on this theory, administered large doses of belladonna in two cases of poisoning by opium, which he related as follows:—

A patient, of whom I had charge, and labouring under delirium tremens, having received an overdose of a solution of the muriate of morphia, became comatose. He had taken, in thirty-six hours, two ounces of the solution of the muriate of morphia, and it had been continued by the attendant after sleep was procured. When I saw him he was in profound coma, his breathing was stertorous, amounting to no more than four or five per minute, and his pupils were contracted to mere points. His pulse was excessively weak, and rather slow; it was quite impossible to rouse him. I ordered him immediately the following mixture: Tincture of belladonna six drachms, in five and a half ounces of water, of which an ounce was to be given every half hour. Three ounces of the mixture were administered with great caution, after which his

pupils began to dilate. The six drachms of the tincture of belladonna were taken, and in four and a half hours after the first dose of it was given, the patient was in the following condition: The coma was entirely gone, respirations were between twenty-two and twenty-five per minute, the pupils were much dilated, the pulse had risen to nearly one hundred and twenty in the minute, and was also increased in strength. His countenance, also, from being cold and pallid, had become much flushed, and the whole body was much warmer. He replied readily and coherently to all my questions. He continued to improve for three days after, when, rising suddenly to stool, he fainted, and before the assistance of the nurse could be procured, he was dead.

A fortnight afterwards, a woman, about fifty years of age, took, at 4 o'clock P. M., two drachms of laudanum, and at half-past 5 P. M. three drachms more. She was brought to the Infirmary at 8 o'clock P. M. After making vain attempts to rouse her from the coma, by walking her about, etc., the stomach-pump was used at a quarter past 8 o'clock. By this means her stomach was thoroughly evacuated, but no trace of opium was detected by smell or sight. It had probably been all absorbed. A current of electricity was then applied to her hands for nearly ten minutes, but without rousing her. I saw her at a quarter to 9, P. M. for the first time, and on being told that she had been poisoned by laudanum, I determined to try the effects of belladonna.

At that time her pupils were contracted to mere points, her respiration was stertorous, ten per minute, the pulse was feeble, and the extremities rather cold. Between 9 and half-past 9, I gave her one ounce of tincture of belladonna in three ounces of water, which was all swallowed, but with difficulty. In the course of the next half hour two drachms more were administered. At 11 P. M. the first alteration in the size of the pupil was observed; the respirations had also then increased to twelve or thirteen in the minute, and the pulse was much stronger. The symptoms continued to improve till 2 A. M., when all indications of opium poisoning had disappeared. The woman was then sitting up in bed talking to the nurses, with pupils dilated to a little more than their natural size, and still slightly sensible to light. The extremities were quite warm, the pulse was about 100, and of good strength.

She gave me a coherent account of her motives for taking the poison, of the amount of money she had spent in purchasing the laudanum, and the names of the druggists where it had been procured. She also replied sensibly to questions about her family, and the age and occupations of her children. She continued awake till nearly 4 o'clock A. M., after which she slept till 9 A. M. In the morning I found her pretty well, her pupils being no more dilated than they were four hours after the first administration of the belladonna. She complained, however, of nausea, but unaccompanied with vomiting. This symptom, along with the dilated pupils, had entirely disappeared in the course of two days. She was kept in the hospital, under observation, for ten days after the accident, at the end of which time she was dismissed, perfectly well. The tincture of belladonna, used in both these cases, was of the strength of four ounces of the leaves to two pints of rectified spirit, and prepared by percolation. Half a drachm is considered a full dose. I have seen dilatation of the pupil produced by a drachm given at once.

The committee on Dr. T. Anderson's communication reported that they had designed to test Dr. A.'s views by experiments on animals, but had found, on inquiry, that the animals commonly used for experiment were almost entirely insusceptible of the poisonous action of opium or belladonna. Where the effects were so different from those observed in man, it was obviously impossible to pursue the investigation which they had intended. The committee, therefore, while recognizing that Dr. A.'s views require more extended observations in order to confirm them, deemed them worthy of the attentive consideration of the Society.—*Proceedings of Physiological Society of Edinburgh, in Monthly Journ. Med. Sci. April, 1854.*

25. *Local Use of Veratria, especially in Scrofulous Affections of Joints.*—In the *Glasgow Medical Journal* for Jan. 1854, Dr. J. B. KLINGNER has published a paper on the local use of veratria. He considers that it is a powerful specific